

Application No.: 10/664142

Case No.: 54493US011

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-26 (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a drywall joint compound comprising filler, water, and at least one of a defoamer, wetting agent, preservative, fungicide, thickener, non-leveling agent, surfactant, solvent and binder; and
- (b) adding a sufficient quantity of dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound to reduce the quantity of dust generated by the hardened drywall joint compound by at least 50%.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40 ~~27~~, wherein when the drywall joint compound of step (a), ~~which when~~ is allowed to harden and is tested as described in this specification, the joint compound generates a quantity of airborne particles having a size of less than 10 microns which is at least ~~than 75~~ 72 mg/m³.

29. - 34. (Canceled).

35. (New) A method of reducing the quantity of dust generated by a drywall joint compound comprising filler, water, defoamer, wetting agent, preservative, fungicide, thickener, non-leveling agent, surfactant, solvent and binder, comprising the step of adding a sufficient quantity of dust reducing additive to the drywall joint compound to reduce the quantity of dust generated by the hardened drywall joint compound.

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36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the quantity of dust generated by the drywall joint compound prior to adding the dust reducing additive is at least about 72 mg/m³.
37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the quantity of dust generated by the drywall joint compound after adding the dust reducing additive no greater than about 10 mg/m³.
38. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the quantity of dust generated by the hardened drywall joint compound prior to adding the dust reducing additive is reduced by at least 50% after adding the dust reducing additive.
39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the dust reducing additive comprises oil.
40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the oil comprises about 1.5% to about 6.0% of the joint compound total wet weight.